

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2620

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5363

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: DETENTION OF SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS

REF: MADRID 5297

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AUG 1, CHIEF OF HIGH GENERAL STAFF, LT. GEN. VALLESPIN SAID THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF SPANISH OFFICERS (REFTEL) HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR HAVING HELD REGULAR MEETINGS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME TO DISCUSS INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM IF THE OFFICERS HAD MET TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE MILITARY, BUT THEIR CONCERN WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE COUNTRY. VALLESPIN SAID THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE OFFICERS HAD LONG BEEN KNOWN AND THERE WERE NO SURPRISES INVOLVED. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT THE EPISODE WAS WITHOUT PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AND THAT NO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WOULD OCCUR, EVEN FOR THE OFFICERS INVOLVED.
STABLER

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Message Attributes

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